Veciap, M/s. Montary Mushroom, M/s. Perfetti, M/s. Wriggly, M/s. Mars Inc, etc. These approvals involve foreign equity investment of over Rs. 2000 crores.

(b) Projects are expected to bring in among other things marketing expertise, advantages of technology, introduction of modern managerial techniques, utilization of indigenous raw material and possibilities of promotion of exports.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has not received any reports of decline in production of food products including soft drinks due to operation of the companies with foreign equity, who have to compete with existing and future domestic industry to market their produce.

(e) Information on sales of companies are not maintained.

Agro-based industries in the States

5629. SHRI S.S. SURJE WALA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an integrated project for the development of agro-based industries in the States of Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan adjacent to Delhi; and

(b) if not, how Government propose to develop agro industries with out creating a net work of infrastructure consisting of cold storage, processing, packing and transport etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing industries does not set up any project directly in any States. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated and is operating a number of developmental Plan Schemes for the overall development of food processing industries. Some of these schemes envisage financial assistance for infrastructural deve-lopment, cold storage and processing etc. In addition assistance is also available from National Horticulture Board & Agriculture and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) for setting up post-harvest infrastruc ture.

Occurrence of Benzene in Vegetable Oils

5630. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vegetable oils produced in the country at present contain one per cent benzene' a cancer causing substance, against the world specification of 40 parts per million;

(b) if so, since when this violation of world specification is in vogue in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring the percentage down, if so, by when and if hot, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) No, Sir. Benzene is an organic salt which is not used in oil extraction either in India or abroad.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Grant of special allownace to the staff of AlIMS

5631. SHRI A. NALLASrVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are yet to publish a list of All India Institute of Medical